

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Representative Bielawa Announces Funding for Bethel Arts Organization**



State Representative Hank Bielawa, R-2nd, announced the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has awarded a \$5,000 grant to benefit the Bethel Arts Junction. The organization will use the funds for public outreach to publicize its programs and workshops and to build sculptures to enhance its facility at the former

Bethel train station.

The sculptures that will be built with a portion of the OPM grant will depict rail passengers from the early 1800's era, when the train station was constructed. The Bethel Arts Junction is a member-artist cooperative. Its inception came about as a result of the closing of Art Tenders, a Frame Shop and Gallery that represented many of its members. In addition to displaying members' own work, the co-op also arranges for public demonstrations of members' techniques or those of guest artists. The facility also offers a 'Wednesday Night Poetry' feature that regularly hosts notable guest speakers.

"I'm pleased to be able to continue the development of the former train station," said Rep. Bielawa, who worked with OPM officials to secure the funding. "It will be another attraction for visitors and make the Bethel Arts Junction even more of an asset for the community."

"We couldn't be happier about receiving the grant," said Adele Moros, vice-president and acting secretary of the Bethel Arts Junction. "It will enable us to initiate programs that have been on the drawing board for the past two-and-a-half years."

State Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield), who helped initiate the conversion of the train station, said that he was also pleased with the continuing progress being made at the location.

"The continued progress at the Bethel Arts Junction continues to be excellent," said Representative Scribner. "This location provides a great forum for local artists to gain exposure, notoriety, and to sell their work. I am pleased to have initiated the conveyance of the historic train station to the Town of Bethel providing a permanent home and appropriate use for the many programs offered to the public by the Bethel Arts Junction. This additional provision adds to the community's cultural offerings".